

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action dated June 2, 2003. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Priority Claim

It is noted that the Office Action Summary at page 1 fails to acknowledge receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents filed on April 12, 2001. Copies of the certified copies accompanied the transmittal letter. Please acknowledge receipt of those documents supporting the priority claim, or indicate that these documents have failed to find this correct file.

Drawings

It is noted with appreciation that the drawings filed on December 20, 2000 are accepted. No additional changes resulting from a review of the specification in light of these drawings are suggested.

Information Disclosure Statement

It is further noted that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 12, 2001 was not acknowledged in the Office Action Summary. Prompt return of the PTO-1449 Form

submitted with that filing, submitting the document noted in the specification as filed is requested.

In addition, an Information Disclosure Statement submitting documents from the Supplemental Search Report in connection with the corresponding EP application are submitted with this response, together with the fee for their consideration. It may be that the subject matter of claims 4 and 5, when dependent on original claim 1, could be considered as unpatentable over the Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 1997, No. 10, cited in the ESR. Therefore, each has been amended to refer back to amended claim 3, which is claims 1 and 2 combined with original claim 3, whether or not indicated to be allowable, as originally presented.

Claims

Claims 1 to 15 were submitted with this application as filed. Claims 7, 8 and 12 to 15 are allowed, and are thus retained as allowed.

Claims 3, 5 and 10 were merely objected to; thus these claims are rewritten so that allowable claim 3 now includes the subject matter of its base claims 1 and 2. Claims 4 to 6 are now dependent on allowable claim 3, and claims 1 and 2 are canceled. Finally claim 10 is rewritten to include the subject matter of its independent base claim 9, so that claims 10 and 11 are allowable as indicated in the action.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 9 were initially rejected as allegedly being anticipated by the patent to Ahmed, No. 5,331,260 (also cited in the IDS presenting the EP citations). Claims 1 and 2 are canceled, while claims 4 and 6 are amended to be dependent on an allowable base claim 3. Only claim 9 remains in the form that prompted this rejection, so that the rejection as originally phrased is moot except as to claim 9.

The subject matter of claim 9 is that a multiple switch device comprising first to fourth window operating switches for operating first row, second row, and third row power windows, and a selector switch for selecting whether the third and fourth window operating switches operate the power windows of the second row or third row. Thus comprised, a multiple switch device as claimed provides the following benefits and effects: (1) the windows in the driver's seat row that are used most frequently and which must on occasion be immediately operable, independently so that they can be operated without first being selected, the window in the first row can always be immediately operated; and (2) an overall compact switch unit having fewer switch knobs than windows can be provided with impairing driving safety.

Ahmed, on the other hand, neither describes nor suggests any structure in which such a multiple switch device with switch knobs for the exclusive use of the driver's seat row power

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windows, and other switch knobs for selective use of the second row or third row power windows.

Conclusion

Claims 3 to 8, 9 and 10 to 15 are now submitted to be allowable over the art of record, while claims 1 and 2 are cancelled. Early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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